

The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation is requesting that you take a few minutes to read this request for help in finding our two missing Iowa girls – *it could make all the difference in the world.*

LYRIC COOK-MORRISSEY



To view the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children website poster, click on the link below:

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PubCaseSearchServlet?act=viewPoster&caseNum=1198725&orgPrefix=NCMC&searchLang=en_US

On Friday, July 13, 2012, Elizabeth Collins and Lyric Cook went for a bike ride in their hometown of Evansdale, Iowa, a small town that borders the eastern side of Waterloo, Iowa. The girls were seen riding their bikes at 12:30 p.m. that day. At approximately 2:00 p.m., their bikes were found near a gate on the trail that goes around Meyers Lake. Elizabeth and Lyric are still missing.

Law enforcement officers from local, state and federal agencies are continuing to follow up on a large number of leads, including viewing hundreds of hours of surveillance video from numerous area businesses. Law enforcement officers continue to request tips and leads from the public.

It is almost certain that the person or persons involved in this abduction used a vehicle to arrive and depart from the area, and it is believed that surveillance video is likely to have recorded that vehicle.

The person(s) involved in this abduction might have had a legitimate reason to be in the immediate area of Meyers Lake on July 13, due to their job, their residence, or their association with someone in the area, or for recreational use of the trail or lake. Alternatively, the person(s) might have been present for the specific purpose of committing an abduction.

Regardless of whether the person(s) responsible for taking Elizabeth and Lyric reside, work, or have acquaintances in the area, or possibly came to the area to commit a crime, it is virtually impossible for any person to live, travel, or exist in a vacuum. Someone knows something that might be valuable to law enforcement.

Law enforcement officials have established an email address for members of the public to submit tips and leads: OurMissingIowaGirls@dps.state.ia.us. You may also contact us using phone number (515) 323-4360. This number is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Even if you live, work, and travel far away from the area where these girls went missing, please continue reading this email, and please take note of the email address for tips, as tomorrow you might see or hear something that could help bring Elizabeth and Lyric home.

We are asking Iowans to keep in mind the following:

- A small or seemingly unimportant bit of information could be critical to finding Elizabeth and Lyric.
- We all would like to believe that we couldn't possibly know someone that is capable of abducting a young girl. The reality is that whoever did this is known by many people. Whoever did this has neighbors, relatives, co-workers and friends. Whoever did this walks amongst us, and lives amongst us.

- Study the photos of Elizabeth and Lyric. Victims much older than these girls have been coerced and manipulated in a relatively short period of time into changing their names and denying their true identity, even when asked by police officers. The photos are an important part of the message. Please look at the attached poster, which includes the girls' physical descriptions. Notice that the girls can look different from one photo to the next and remember that a haircut or coloring can dramatically alter a child's appearance. There are certain facial characteristics of both girls that are distinct and unique, notice them and pay attention to children you see. Look at the freckles and moles on these girls' faces. Pay attention to their smiles.
- Perhaps you know someone who was talking about planning on being in the Evansdale area on the 13th of July. Perhaps they were planning to visit someone, go camping, fishing, boating, or visit for business. Perhaps the next time you spoke with them they explained that something interfered with that plan, and they didn't go as planned. That could be an important lead that we need to know about and follow up on.
- Pay attention to your surroundings and report what is unusual.
- Perhaps you know someone that has raised your suspicion for some reason that you can't quite explain. Don't ignore your natural instincts – they can be very valuable. If you know someone that has had a an abrupt, significant, and unexplained change of behavior, or suddenly decided to get rid of a vehicle, a boat, or some other property under circumstances that seem unusual, take the time to let us know.

DO NOT PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER OR TAKE THE LAW INTO YOUR OWN HANDS. If you think you have seen one or both of these girls do not attempt to intervene, but do get details and ***IMMEDIATELY*** contact local law enforcement.

Please don't wait until the next day or an hour later to report a tip – time is of the essence. If possible, get a license plate number and description of a vehicle or a specific time, date, and location where you saw something or someone that may relate to the missing girls. We can't emphasize enough the importance of details such as a license plate number or unique identifying information such lettering or numbering on a vehicle.

Previous abduction cases provide possible insight into the ability for a kidnapper to hold a victim in locations that seem highly improbable. The kidnapping of Jaycee Lee Dugard occurred on June 10, 1991, in South Lake Tahoe, California. Dugard was 11 years old at the time and was abducted from a street while she was walking from home to a school bus stop.

On August 25, 2009, a convicted sex offender visited the campus of UC Berkeley accompanied by two young girls. Their unusual behavior sparked an investigation that led to his bringing the two girls to a parole office on August 26, accompanied by a young woman who was then identified as Dugard. Dugard was kept in a concealed area behind Garrido's house for 18 years.

Imagine for a moment if your child, grandchild, nephew, niece, or friend's child went missing. You would want every Iowan to be listening, looking, and helping. There is a chance that you know or might see something that can help bring Elizabeth and Lyric home.

Thank you for your time and effort in this most important matter.

Send tips to: OurMissingIowaGirls@dps.state.ia.us or call (515) 323-4360 to provide information.